



Philippians 1

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Philippians 1:1-2

Paul, with Timothy by his side, are writing to a group of believers who are continuing in the fellowship with one another. Paul opens the letter by stating what they and those in Philippi have in common, Jesus Christ. There were bishops and deacons there at the church in Philippi, so this is a healthy body of believers that Paul is writing to. As is common with Paul's letters he writes to them that God the Father and Jesus Christ have something to give and he hopes that for them, God's Grace and Peace.

Study Questions:

Why does Paul include Timothy in his letter to those in Philippi?

Do Christians have to search for what they have in common?

What should be the common thing that all Christians have between them?

What do the terms bishop and deacon mean?

Why did Paul include bishops and deacons in the greeting of who the letter was addressed to?

What does God have to give to every believer?

What is God's Grace?

What is God's Peace?

Philippians 1:3-8

Thinking of the Philippians believers brought Paul joy, because of what they had in common and because of the degree of fellowship which Paul and the Philippian believers had with one another. Those in Philippi had been key supporters of Paul, and often times when many would shy away from support of or fellowship with Paul those in Philippi didn't; Php 4:14-15. Because the Lord had started such a great work within the lives of the Philippians and were not hindering the work of the Lord in their lives, Paul was confident that the Lord would complete His work in them to the very end. This was right for Paul to think this because they continued with him and even shared in the same hardships for the Gospel as Paul.

Study Questions:

Why does it bring Paul Joy to think of the Philippians?

Was Paul's time in Philippi a memorable one?

Was the time peaceful or full of trials?

What does Paul join with his thinking of those in Philippi?

What does it mean to have fellowship in the Gospel?

How did Paul describe their fellowship with him in the Gospel?

What was Paul confident about in the lives of the Philippians believers?

What is the work the Lord is doing in the lives of the believers in Philippi?

Why is it right for Paul to think that the Lord will complete His work in them?

Who is the one doing the work in the lives of the Philippians?

What is Paul referring to when he says they are partakers in his chains?

How are the Philippians partakers in the defense and confirmation of the Gospel with him?

Philippians 1:9-11

Paul now gets to what that work is in the lives of the Philippians, God's Agape, or divine, Love. Paul prays for this divine love to abound in their life through knowledge and discernment. Growing in the knowledge and discernment of God's divine love which will allow them to evaluate what is the right standard and motivation for love in their life, this love will allow for the fruits of righteousness to flourish and abound in the individual's life because it is motivated by and directed correctly, and this will cause others to give glory and praises to the Lord.

Study Questions:

Why is Paul praying that God's love would abound more and more in their lives?

Why do we usually pray for something in someone's life?

Why might Paul be concerned about the motivation of the Philippians' love?

How many different expressions for love did the Greeks have?

What expression of love from the Greek language is Paul using here?

How can our knowledge of God's love abound?

How can our discernment of God's love increase?

What does discernment mean?

Why is it important to discern from the different expressions of love that we show towards others?

What does knowledge and discernment then allow us to do?

What does it mean to approve something?

Why is it important to have an evaluation system of what is excellent?

What does our sincerity and being without offense allow to be produced in our lives?

What does Jesus say true righteousness is?

What are the fruits of righteousness?

What should those traits of our lives lead others to do who see and experience them?

Philippians 1:12-18

Paul has learned through all his difficulties and trials, that they have all worked out for the Gospel to move forward in the lives of others. There had previously been distances which the Gospel had traveled and misconceptions about spiritual things in individual's lives, and the Lord used situations which were meant for evil against Paul to break down many of these misconceptions in their lives. And a majority of these were at the expense of Paul's comfort and ease, Paul later says that doesn't bother him because the comfort and ease which he had gained are for nothing compared to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and for that knowledge to be gained in another's life, and that he therefore pours his life out as a drink offering or a form of worship so that the Lord can complete His work in the lives of others.

Because of Paul's dedication to the Gospel, even in chains and in threat of more punishment, that others joined in by sharing the Gospel of Grace. That there were those who desired to make Paul's life harder by sharing the Gospel, and there were those who loved Paul and so they shared what Paul loves. Paul made up his mind that either way the Gospel is being preached and this brings him joy, Paul keeps his eyes looking forward to the goal and prize and not on his present situation or circumstances not his past successes or mistakes.

Study Questions:

What is Paul wanting to communicate to the Philippians?

What kind of things have happened to Paul?

Has Paul's journeys been smooth sailing and easy?

What did these terrible situations bring about and allow to happen in the lives of others?

Now that Paul is imprisoned and chained to guards, did this stop him from sharing the Gospel of Grace?

Who did Paul share with?

What did Paul sharing while arrested convince others of?

What does Paul mean when he says, "my chains are in Christ"?

What did Paul's boldness for the Gospel do for other believers?

What did some who disliked Paul do because he was in chains for the Gospel?

What did Paul's enemies think they would gain by preaching Christ?

What is Paul's response for everyone's involvement?

What did Paul always make everything about?

What has Paul learned through all from all his circumstances?

What does Paul desire to be developed in the life of believers?

What is the result of accepting that God is in control?

How can we stay on task and preach Christ from Love?

Philippians 1:19-26

Paul is confident in the prayers that others had been praying for him and even more so in the “supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ”, so that Christ will be magnified. Paul is both asking for prayer and confident in their prayers and in the power and fullness of the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ to provide him with boldness in order to magnify Christ through whatever situation he is in, and not that his desires or comforts will be magnified and drawn attention to, which Paul says he would be ashamed if others would focus on him and his needs instead of their need for Jesus Christ.

Paul knows that being with Christ is of the extreme gain for anyone, and that to live in the flesh the goal for any believer should be fruit from their labor for the Gospel of Grace, which comes from self-sacrifice and self-humbling of one’s life and goals; so that others may be lifted or built up and equipped for every good work of the gifts which Christ has given us. Paul desires for others to come to the degree of rejoicing in any situation or circumstance as he has come to learn, that everything happens for a reason.

Study Questions:

What is Paul expectant of for his situation in the future?

Was Paul ever acquitted from this series of charges?

Is Paul ashamed of his chains?

What would Paul be ashamed of?

What was Paul expectant that their prayers and the “the Spirit of Jesus Christ” would supply him with?

Why is Paul asking for prayer for boldness?

What does magnified mean?

How is Christ magnified by someone’s life?

Where does Paul desire for people’s focus to remain?

What has Paul learned through all from all his circumstances in these verses?

What does Paul desire to be developed in the life of believers?

Should every believer desire this for others?

How does our attitude have to be in order to see others built up and equipped?

Philippians 1:27-30

Paul encourages the Christian to walk worthy of our calling, which is by God's Grace. Walking worthy of this calling, the individual will have one single desire and though in every situation, to make the abundance in Christ known. The Christian does this by standing fast in those very things, the desires of and the mind of Christ. By standing fast in these things we are strengthened by the Spirit of Jesus Christ to not be afraid of those who oppose us or suffering and conflict for the Gospel of Grace to be made known to all.

Study Questions:

How should our conduct be as Christians?

How is our conduct worth of the Gospel?

What does it mean to stand fast?

What is the one spirit, and one mind Paul is referring to?

How can we have the same mind and spirit of Christ?

How do we remain thinking about the same things as Christ?

How do we keep the same desires of Christ?

What part of speech is "the faith" that Paul mentions?

What is "the faith" that Paul is talking about?

When we stand fast in the mind and desires of Christ, what things do not dissuade the Christian?